

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00931 101220Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0931

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY

SUBJ: THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MAKARIOS

REF: STATE 086069

1. I DELIVERED THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO MAKARIOS AT 10 A.M. LOCAL APRIL 10. AFTER READING THE MESSAGE, MAKARIOS ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS ASSURANCE THAT EVERY POSSIBLE PRECAUTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO AMERICAN LIVES OR PROPERTY DURING THE DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 12. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD ALREADY SCHEDULED NOON MEETING WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND SENIOR SECURITY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS MEASURES AND CONTINGENCIES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS INTELLIGENCE WAS VERY MUCH THE SAME AS OURS REGARDING THE INTENTIONS OF EXTREMISTS TO USE MONDAY'S DEMONSTRATION AND GENERALLY HEIGHTENED ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING TO CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE IF THEY COULD WITH THE OBJECT OF DISRUPTING THE CYPRUS-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID HE WISHED TO PRESERVE THAT RELATIONSHIP AND SUSTAIN AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. EVEN APART FROM THIS, HOWEVER, ATTACKS ON FOREIGN EMBASSIES WERE "NOT PERMISSIBLE."

2. MAKARIOS REFERRED SOMEWHAT APOLOGETICALLY TO APRIL 6 DEMONSTRATION, SAYING HE HAD ASSURED HIMSELF IT WOULD BE SMALL AND PEACEFUL. IA ASKED HOW IT WAS THAT SCHOOL TEACHERS AND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 00931 101220Z

EVEN PRINCIPALS HAD ORDERED THEIR PUPILS TO LEAVE SCHOOL AND

PARTICIPATE. THIS CONTRASTED UNFAVORABLY WITH GOVERNMENT'S STRONG ACTION FOLLOWING PARTIAL LIFTING OF TURKISH EMBARGO WHEN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ORDERED STUDENTS TO REMAIN IN SCHOOL, THREATENED THEIR EXPULSION IF THEY DID NOT OBEY, AND POLICE WERE SENT TO SCHOOLS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE. MAKARIOS SAID HE HAD LEARNED THIS, TO HIS SURPRISE AND REGRET, AND HAD ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION. THIS SHOWED THAT THE TWO PRINCIPAL TEACHERS' UNIONS HAD TAKEN LAST MINUTE DECISION TO THROW THEIR FULL WEIGHT INTO DEMONSTRATION AND HAD BEEN ABLE TO ENFORCE THEIR WILL ON SCHOOL AUTHORITIES.

3. I SAID I HOPED WE WOULD NOT SEE A REPEAT OF THIS ON MONDAY. THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROVED ITS CAPACITY TO CONTROL DEMONSTRATIONS IF IT WISHED. IF THERE WERE TROUBLE ON MONDAY, THE CONCLUSION WOULD BE OBVIOUS AND THE USG REACTION SERIOUS, AS THE SECRETARY'S LETTER AND MR. SISCO'S APPROACH TO AMB DEMETRIOU MADE UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR.

4. I NOTED, FINALLY, THAT IN PAST DEMONSTRATIONS THERE HAD BEEN PASSIVITY ON THE PART OF THE POLICE: INCLINATION TO STAND ASIDE IF DEMONSTRATORS ENTERED EMBASSY GROUNDS, TORE DOWN THE FLAG, BURNED CARS, AND THREW PETROL BOMBS. SUCH PASSIVITY WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE. I WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE THAT ON MONDAY POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD IF NECESSARY WOULD KEEP DEMONSTRATORS AWAY FROM EMBASSY PERIMETER. MAKARIOS SAID EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO PREVENT THIS. HE HAD ALREADY INTENDED TO DISCUSS WITH POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD THE IMPLACEMENT OF SOME FORM OF STRONGER PHYSICAL BARRIER AROUND EMBASSY TO CONTAIN DEMONSTRATORS.

5. COMMENT: MAKARIOS FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORT OF STRONG US STAND IN THIS AFFAIR. WHILE IT IS MY UNCHARITABLE AND PERHAPS ERRONEOUS PERSONAL ESTIMATE THAT HE MIGHT HAVE SEEN SOME POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN LETTING GREEK CYPRIOTS BLOW OFF STEAM THROUGH ONLY PARTIALLY CONTROLLED DEMONSTRATIONS APRIL 6 AND 12, I BELIEVE THE STRENGTH OF US REPRESENTATIONS, BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECTLY THROUGH GREECE, HAVE PROBABLY CAUSED HIM TO CHANGE HIS MIND. ALL IN THIS MISSION APPRECIATE SWIFTNES AND STRENGTH OF DEPT'S MULTIPLE RESPONSE. IT HELPS TO BRING HOME TO SOME CYPRIOTS AT LEAST THAT THEY CANNOT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NICOSI 00931 101220Z

DESTROY PROPERTY AND CONTEMPTUOUSLY ATTACKS ON PERSONNEL AND AT THE SAME TIME DEMAND THAT WE SOLVE THEIR LARGELY SELF-CREATED PROBLEM.
CRAWFORD

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